**Setting up of Dry Port in Madhya Pradesh**

6903. KUMARI PUSPA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up a dry port in Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Union Government since long; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Wide feasibility studies for Inland Container Depots in M. P. have been conducted by organizations like RITES, no formal proposal for setting up such facility has been received by the Government.

**Remittances from Indians Loving in Gulf Region**

6904. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the remittances from Indians living in Gulf region, since January, 1991 till date;

(b) whether these remittances have gone up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). According to the RBI the latest year for which details of remittances are available in 1989-90, when total private transfer receipts were Rs. 3823.9 crores of which the Gulf region accounted for about 48 per cent.

**Loans to Youth in Wardha, Maharashtra**

6905. SHRI RAMCHANDRA CHANGARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the nationalised banks are reluctant to advance loans for starting some occupation to the educated unemployed youth even though said loans have been sanctioned by the district industries centres;

(b) the number of such cases which are pending in Wardha district of Maharashtra since January 1, 1990; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the payment of the above loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The financing banks consider the request for loan assistance to educated unemployed persons received from District Industries Centre on merits of each case. The question of any reluctance on the part of the Banks to finance the above category of borrowers do not arise. Any complaint relating to the negative attitude of the Bank officials in the operation of the scheme can be looked into by the concerned bank, Reserve Bank of India of Government for remedial action. For the district of Wardha, the achievement of Banks in the Scheme was 260 against the target of 250 beneficiaries to be covered and there was no case pending since 1st January, 1990.

**Embezzlement Cases in Banks**

6906. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of embezzle-

ment of funds which took place in banks during the last one year;

(b) the details of involvement, if any, of bank officials in these cases; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Information regarding cases of 'embezzlement' of funds as such is not reported by the banks. However, according to information received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there were 1559 cases of frauds reported by 28 public sector banks during the year 1991.

(b) Case-wise details of involvement of bank officials is not readily available. Moreover, the time and effort involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with the result likely to be achived. However, individual cases are monitored at the level of the banks after due investigation and inquiry till final action is taken. The overall position in a bank-wise manner is monitored in the Ministry of Finance as well as in the Central Vigilance Commission.

(c) RBI has reported that during the year 1991, 50 employees of public sector banks were convicted and 699 employees were given major/minor penalties for their involvement in frauds irrespective of the date of occurrence.

[*Translation*]

**Trade Agreement with France and Egypt**

6907. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreement has been made with France and Egypt recently; and

(b) if so, the good which are proposed to be encouraged for trade with these countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). A meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee was held in Paris in November, 1991. 14 categories of new products were identified for enlarging the trade between the two countries. The products identified include rubber hoses, cut and polished granite, toys and sports goods etc.

However, as far as Egypt is concerned no trade agreement has been signed recently between Indian and Egypt.

**Issue of Bonds by State Government**

6908. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the states which have sought approval from the Union Government for issue of bonds in order to complets their schemes; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for completion of these schemes by the State Governmentsin case the approval is not accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka have approached Union Government during 1990-91 and 1991-92 for issue of bonds. As the scheme of Public Sector Bonds is restricted to only those undertaking whose entire equity is held by Central Government, approval has not been granted and